

Thomas, Felicia

From: DeGering, Tracy
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 12:22 PM
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Woodruff, Leigh
Subject: RE: NPDES permit;

Hi Don,

Thank you for your email and for your interest in the new NPDES General Permit for Small Suction Dredge Mining in Idaho. I'm glad you contacted us.

We rescheduled the meeting to April 9 because we were not able to accommodate the number of individuals who informed us they wanted to participate. Instead, we are now planning to host an online meeting so that we can present to a larger audience. We have been in contact with other state and federal agencies about this permit and will be meeting with them as well.

If you have any specific questions you'd like answered now, or that you believe should be incorporated in the April 9 presentation, please don't hesitate to let me know. The permit is not final, so I can't provide you with a copy at this time, but I would be happy to try and answer any questions you have.

Thank you,

Tracy DeGering | (208) 378-5756

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Idaho Operations Office
950 W. Bannock Street, Suite 900
Boise, ID 83702
Fax: (208) 378-5744

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 11:21 AM
To: DeGering, Tracy
Cc: Woodruff, Leigh
Subject: NPDES permit;

Tracy,

I would like to address the following concerns with NPDES,

1. Changing the date of the NPDES meeting makes it financially risky for me to go ahead with purchasing mining equipment for the upcoming 2013 season at this time. I may not be able to mine with the equipment that I would purchase due to the prohibitive nature of the proposed permit. I have already put off such purchases to the point which manufacturers of the equipment are too busy and cannot guarantee the delivery before mining season begins.
2. Myself and others have been working on expanding our mining activities with the State of Idaho agencies, Dept. of Water Resources, and Dept. of Lands, as well as the Dept. of Fish and Game. We have worked with our State Representative and our State Attorney General. My concern is that they will not be able to attend the

meeting at the same time and place as us who are effected by NPDES permit rules. Your new meeting plan would eliminate a question and answer time, which would be most valuable to all in attendance.

3. I have as yet no idea what the final draft of NPDES permit would look like and what benefit it would be for the environment.

4. I live in Idaho and have complied with all necessary permits to mine in my chosen location. I have invested my own time and resources to mine in Idaho with a suction dredge. I am considering myself a stake-holder in these proceedings.

5. The Supreme Court of the United States has recently ruled in Decker v. Northwest Environmental Defensed Center, that the Clean Water Act only applies to industrial pollutants.

Don Smith

(b) (6)

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